

44. There and Back Again

Revelation 21-22

INTRODUCTION:

- The world we all want...

REVELATION 21-22

- **Revelation 21:1, Why do we need a new world?**
 - Story of God is the story of restoration
 - God created the perfect world (Creation)
 - We broke the perfect world (Fall)
 - Jesus came to fix the world (Redemption)
 - Rather than accepting him, he was rejected and killed
 - Having known this in advance, God used Jesus' death to restore
 - Now creation groans waiting for the culmination of restoration and glory
 - Now we talk about (Restoration)
- **Revelation 21:2-7, What did Jesus' death and resurrection accomplish?**
 - Announcement from the throne:
 - A bride
 - Immanuel - God with us
 - Freedom from bondage and decay (Romans 8:21)
 - Qualitative newness (1 Corinthians 15:42-43)
 - But at what cost?
 - Revelation 5:6-12
 - It cost him his own blood.
 - It cost you nothing.
- **Revelation 21:8, The alternative to what the lamb offers**
 - Eternal judgment, the second death
- **Revelation 21:9-14, Description of the Bride**
 - The bride = a city, meaning people → the Church, God's family, adopted
 - Numerous metaphors throughout scripture to explain
 - What is the bride like?
 - Multipliers of 12 = perfect
 - Precious stones, jewels and metals = Ezekiel 28:13 → Eden; Gold = king
- **Revelation 21:15-22, Description of Immanuel**
 - Cube of 1,400 miles → just like the holy of holies
 - The bride is with her groom in perfect harmony
- **Revelation 21:23-27, Description of the newness (compare first and second creation)**
 - This time there is no darkness.
 - Light = the glory of God.
 - Lamp = the Lamp

- Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet (Psalm 119)
 - The Word became flesh...
- This time there's no tree of knowledge of good and evil
 - The nations will walk by the light of the Lamb and the Glory of God
- We have our own glory instead of only God's glory
 - Just as now we have Christ's righteousness but we will have our own righteousness one day
- **Revelation 22:1-5, What is the source of all of this newness of life?**
 - All of this points to Christ...
 - The river of the water of life... (The Word, Jesus, God)
 - The Word in Ezekiel 47
 - John 4:10-14
 - Down the middle of the main street = the center of it all
 - What does your life Revolve around?
 - Tree of life on each side of the river
 - Psalm 1... Ezekiel 47...
 - The Word, Jesus, God
 - Leaves are for healing, fruit in every season, life
 - Tree of life: Is it the cross?
- **Revelation 22:3b-5, What is the result of this tree of life?**
 - Relationship w/ Creator restored fully → see his face
 - Fully realized Identity → Know who you are and WHOSE you are
 - Whenever we try to realize our ID outside of Christ we falter
 - A perfect existence forever and ever, co-heirs w/ Christ
- **Revelation 22:6-21, Simply read**

WHAT DOES THIS TEACH ABOUT MANKIND?

- You need to be made new.
- The world around you needs to be made new.

WHAT DOES THIS TEACH ABOUT GOD?

- God doesn't have to, but wants to make you new.
- He is making all things new.

IF THIS IS TRUE, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

- Wash your robes. In what? The blood of Christ (the life-giving river)
 - Trust... Obey...
 - Jesus says, "I am the way..." "I am the door..." "I am the gate..."

IF THIS IS TRUE, WHO SHOULD I TELL?

- What is your role while you wait? Both the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"
 - Who? Anyone who hears (22:17)
- To the one who is thirsty... To the one who desires life for free... Drink freely.